

Invasion of Cuba Should Settle Bitter Dispute Between Rightist and Leftist Exile Organizations

Right-Wing
Group Said to
Have Backing of
U.S. Firms, CIA.

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THE INVASION of Cuba at dawn today should settle a bitter behind-the-scenes dispute between rival Cuban exile groups.

On one side have been right-wing forces, financed largely by United States corporations whose property has been seized by the Castro government, relying on a massive invasion of Cuba from bases in the United States and Central America.

On the other side have been left-of-center exiles who fled Cuba more recently. They hope to retain much of Fidel Castro's social revolution and rely on resistance movements inside Cuba to overthrow him.

Representatives of the latter group said today that the invasion this morning was planned nearly a year ago by the right-wing faction. This faction, they asserted, has been working with the Central Intelligence agency.

They expressed fears that the invasion would fail because of inadequate organization inside Cuba. If the present counter-revolution succeeds, they said, the rightist probably would try to suppress liberal forces in Cuba and undo the reforms begun by the Castro regime.

THE LEADER of the rightist group, Manuel Antonio de Varona Laredo, was said to be accompanying Jose Miro Cardona, head of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, to Cuba to set up a provisional government on one of the beachheads. The council was formed recently in an effort to unify the exile resistance to Castro.

(An Associated Press dispatch from New York quoted Cuban exile sources there as saying all members of the Cuban Revolutionary Council have gone to Cuba "and should be there by now.")

The sources said they had not yet received word confirming the arrival of the Council in Cuba. When the Council was organized here last month, its members said the council would be a provisional government of Cuba once it had



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

JOSE MIRO CARDONA announcing formation of Cuban revolutionary council in New York, March 22. Other ranking members of the council were MANUEL ANTONIO DE VARONA LAREDO (left) and MANUEL RAY (right). Figure second from left is an interpreter.

ognition and aid from all "free world" countries, the founders said.)

Opposition to the strategy apparently being employed today has come mainly from the Revolutionary Movement of the People (M.R.P.), headed by Manuel Ray. He was Castro's minister of public works until November 1959, when he resigned and began organizing underground cells in Cuba. He came to the United States last October.

Some persons in Varona's group, the Democratic Revolutionary Front, (F.R.D.), have been circulating the word that Ray and his associates are really Communists and stand for "Fidelismo without Fidel."

M.R.P. leaders, in return, have been calling their opponents in Varona's faction the "John Birch International."

REPRESENTATIVES of Ray's M.R.P. assert that training camps in Florida and Louisiana and staging camps in Guatemala have been operated by the CIA in close co-operation with the Varona group.

In Chile told the Post-Dispatch recently that mining and petroleum interests had decided on Varona as their candidate for the leader of the exile forces and were supporting his group. In return, the executive said, the Varona group had agreed to turn back mining and petroleum properties in Cuba to their former owners.

The M.R.P. representatives jokingly call the CIA the "Cuban Invasion Authority." They contend that a successful revolution against Castro must be led by Cubans rather than by Americans.

"Lackeys don't make leaders," one of these representatives said.

The M.R.P. group also disagrees with the strategy of invasion and establishment of a beachhead. The faction contends the Castro forces probably can crush any invasion force of even 5000 men. He has a militia estimated at 250,000 to 400,000. At least 10 per cent probably would remain loyal through sincere allegiance, fear of punishment if Castro loses, belief that the in-

vaders are supporters of former dictator Fulgencio Batista, or opposition to any intervention from the outside.

If even 10 per cent remain loyal, it is argued, Castro's forces will far outnumber the invaders, whereas an invading group should have numerical superiority.

THE M.R.P. GROUP also has been critical of the kind of training given the Cuban exiles in the camps in the United States and Guatemala.

"They are not being trained for guerrilla fighting," one of the M.R.P. men said. "It is just like the United States Army, with ice cream and movies and all the rest."

These representatives conceded today that some factors would work in favor of success of the invasion. They predicted that the invaders soon would have air support from B-26 bombers operating from an airstrip at one of the invasion sites.

The bombers were said to be equipped with rockets and eight